

# THE KOREAN REPOSITORY.

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DECEMBER, 1897.

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JOHN W. HERON, M.D.

**I**N the passing away of a man in the fullness of his years we recognize a fitness, that is like the plucking of ruddy apples from the orchard in the mellowed maturity of harvest. But when a strong man in his early prime is snatched away our hearts are pained as when beholding the orchard that yesterday was fragrant and beautiful with a thousand sunny star-forms, but now stands brown and sear from the deadly kiss of the frost. Deep was our bereavement over seven years ago when death claimed our beloved Dr. Heron, so young, strong and full of brilliant promise. I can see him to-day as he used to look, a man of medium stature and symmetrical form, a shapely head and a handsome face, the forehead high and broad speaking of intellectual force, large lustrous eyes, shaded by long eyelashes that gave to the face a sensitive cast, eyes that were quick, observant, frank; expressive eyes, now flashing with nervous merriment, now tender with sympathy, or profoundly grave with his intense convictions, or flashing and glowing with tempestuous fire. The mouth was covered with a heavy drooping mustache, and the upper lip had frequently a peculiar manner of twitching when he was in a humorous, semi-satirical mood. His other features were regular and strong. His whole bearing was dignified, graceful, alert and earnest. This is a picture that many of his friends in Korea will readily recall.

John W. Heron, M.D. was born in England, June 15th, 1856. Small wonder that he chose his course as a medical missionary when we remember the home from which he came, for his father was an English Congregationalist minister, and both his parents were people of deep piety. I remember well the pride the doctor expressed in his ministerial parentage, and the warmth with which, giving statistics he had prepared, he refuted the

calumny that the sons of ministers as a rule were moral degenerates, declaring in fact that the very reverse was true. When he was fourteen years of age the family emigrated to America and in their search for a new home turned their face towards the sunny south. This home they found in Knoxville, perhaps the largest town in eastern Tennessee, and here as a faithful pastor the father spent the rest of his life.

The son in time graduated from Maryville College east Tennessee, supporting himself in the meanwhile with the proceeds from former school teaching. At a later date we find him a student in the medical department of the University of Tennessee in Nashville. In 1883 he graduated with the highest honors that had ever been given in the school. For eighteen months he practiced medicine in Jonesboro, east Tennessee. This was followed by another year of study in the medical department of the University of New York. While here he achieved the honor of passing the difficult competition examination which placed him upon the medical force of the Blackwell Island Hospital. At the close of his year of study he was offered a professorship in the medical department of the University of Tennessee, which he refused, on account of his medical mission plans. The same year witnessed his marriage to Miss Hattie Gibson, daughter of his former medical partner in Jonesboro, and his departure for Korea. In 1887 upon the return of Dr. Allen to the United States he assumed the charge of the Royal Government Hospital and became physician to His Majesty. He also had the care of the foreign practice of Seoul and his conscientiousness and skill as a physician were universally recognized. He was taken from us in July 1890 after a three weeks illness with dysentery. I think that the most striking trait in Dr. Heron's character was his unselfish devotion to his friends. Tho a hard-worked man he yet found the time to enter into the life and work of his friends in a thousand kind and thoughtful ways. He seemed to me like one of my own relatives. And I know that I was not the only one upon whom this impression was made, for I have heard others of his friends remark "he seemed to me just like a brother." It must be admitted, however, that his dislikes were as strong as his friendships. Probably no young missionary was sent out by the Presbyterian Board to Korea in those days who did not at one time or another make his home under the hospitable roof of Dr. Heron.

There was a chivalrous tenderness in his relations to his wife and two little girls that was beautiful to behold. There seemed to have been in him a combination of the Puritan and the cavalier in the best sense of those terms. He was a man of high principles and a high sense of honor. He was punctilious in the dis-



charge of his social duties. In his dealings with others he was straightforward, open and frank even to a fault. His nature was sensitive and spirited. In his mental operations he was quick, alert, and keenly observant. His convictions were held with all the intensity of his nature. He was a man of untiring energy and full of resources. In some respects he was quite conservative. When in 1888 the authorities sought to restrict our evangelistic work, and the differing convictions of the various missionaries led them to favor different methods of preaching, Dr. Heron's sense of duty led him to adopt what was then known as the quieter policy of work. If he was led to feel extremely cautious, it was not, however, from any lack of interest in the work. None who beheld it can ever forget the pathos of the scene when on his death bed he called about him his servants and in simple earnest language explained to them once again the plan of salvation and plead with them to give their hearts to Jesus. It may not be generally known but the idea of establishing the Korean Religious Tract Society formed itself in Dr. Heron's brain. I may say too that he was not only devoted to his medical work but he seemed to carry the interest of all the work of the mission upon his heart. And he was ready to fight in debate with all the strength of his intense nature if he thought that the rights of the mission, as a mission, were in any way being infringed upon.

A superficial acquaintance might not realize how essentially devout was Dr. Heron's character. He was a conscientious man, faithful to what he considered his duty. This was especially noticeable in his laborious medical work which he conducted with great devotion, sympathy and skill. He worked under the hardest conditions at the Government Hospital but with scarcely a complaint. The officials might steal all the money, he would replace it with the toil of his outside practice. He little knew how to spare himself, and it was overwork and mental strain that sapped the strength of his constitution and left him a prey to disease. Koreans might quail at times before the fire of his temper, but they loved him in spite of this for the sympathy and tenderness of his heart. True, earnest and strong, Dr. Heron has long been missed in the hearts of those he endeared to him.

DANIEL L. GIFFORD.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE OF KOREA.

WE are in receipt of a copy of the trade report of Korea for 1896 by H. B. M.'s Consul-General, Mr. J. N. Jordan.

These reports contain much that is of interest to the general reader and the one before us is not an exception. They are, we presume, intended primarily for those directly interested in the advancement of English trade. Viewed from this standpoint, Mr. Jordan's report is less hopeful, perhaps, than could be wished. In fact there is the tacit admission that Japanese manufacturers and traders by their enterprise have made such advancement as to lessen considerably the demand for Manchester goods.

The report begins by stating that Korean trade "still labors under all the disadvantages natural to an agricultural community of a peculiarly backward and primitive type." The absence of large rivers, and of land transportation other than on the back of bull or horse make it next to impossible for the little communities living in the numerous mountain valleys to get their produce to the market. There are of course the local markets held every fifth day, but native produce, owing to the drawbacks mentioned, "in the interior is much enhanced in value before it reaches the coast, and foreign imports are almost prohibitive in price before they are placed on the inland markets."

The total trade of Korea for the year under review was yen 12,842,509 and exceeded that of any previous year with the exception of 1895 when the country was occupied by the Japanese troops.

Mr Jordan points out the significant fact that Korea has only one customer, Japan, for her surplus produce. Manufactures there are none. Rice, beans, and hides go mostly to Japan. Ginseng appears in the returns of Customs for "almost the first time in the shape of about 30,000/." Most if not all of this goes to China. Gold leaves the country in larger quantities than the returns indicate and no doubt finds its way to both China and Japan. Apart from this there is not much that leaves the country, the paper presents a fairly good showing. Rice and beans make up three-fourths of the entire export trade, and rice is nearly double that of beans.



It is barely 10 years since the Korean farmer first realised that his surplus stock of beans, instead of being allowed to decompose, could be shipped with profit to a foreign country, and as there is still no lack of waste land suitable for the cultivation of the plant, the only limit to the supply will be the demand in Japan, where the land formerly devoted to bean cultivation is, it is said, being gradually utilised for more profitable crops. Contrasted with Chinese husbandry, Korean tillage is carried on in a careless and haphazard fashion, and hillsides which in China would be terraced with cultivation, are in Korea allowed to run waste. Beans flourish on poor soil, but the question of transport naturally militates against their extended cultivation in parts remote from waterways. It is, however, as a rice-growing country that Korea is taking rank amongst the grain producing nations of the East, and becoming to a large extent the granary of Japan. Last year's export of the article was considerably over 250,000/ sterling, and represented more than half of the total export trade of the country. In addition to the abnormal Japanese demand, there are other and more permanent causes which contributed to this expansion. One of the salutary changes recently introduced is that the land tax is to be paid in money and no longer in kind, and, as a result, the grain which was formerly diverted from the ordinary channels of trade by being conveyed to Seoul, is now released for export abroad. Another impetus to the trade is the establishment, under American and Japanese auspices, of steam mills with machinery and appliances for cleaning and hulling the rice.

Red ginseng grown extensively around Songdo is highly valued by the Chinese for medicinal purposes. Up to 1895 it was carried to Peking by the "annual overland Embassy and a large trade was done in the highly prized root by numerous shops in the vicinity of the old Korean Mission house in the Chinese capital." The King had the entire trade in his hand; its exports by sea was prohibited; the revenue went into the ever empty royal exchequer.

The annual crop of ginseng is limited in quantity to about 15,000 catties, upon which an excise duty of 10 dollars a catty is charged under the new regulations, to which is added an import duty of 5 per cent. ad valorem levied on its arrival at a treaty port in China. There is reason to believe that in practice the amount raised exceeds considerably 15,000 catties, and that the prescribed scale of taxation is not rigidly adhered to.

Mr. Jordan finds encouragement in the increased exportation of gold, tho he naturally raises the question "whether this increase is due to enlarged production or diminished clandestine shipment, but the Commissioner of Customs seems to favor the former inference." Korea in his opinion is not a Klondike as may be inferred from the following sentence.

The wild dreams of finding an El Dorado of mineral wealth in Korea, which were indulged in before the country was opened to foreign intercourse have long passed away, but considering the results obtained by surface washing, as evidenced by the yearly export of gold dust, it is strange that the development of Korea's mineral resources has attracted so little attention on the part of foreign capitalists, more especially as the Government is not so illiberal as most Asiatic governments in granting facilities for the purpose.

Koreans are using kerosene oil more and more every year. The import in 1896 exceeded that of 1895 by about 20,000 cases. American oil still leads, "but the Russian import also shows a very marked improvement." We may state in passing that during the present year, the Standard Oil Company, has entered Korea and erected at Chemulpo permanent go-downs with a capacity for storing 500,000 cases. This no doubt means that this great company has come to stay and intends to push its trade in the empire. The Russian oil is twenty cents a case cheaper than the American, "but its cheapness scarcely makes up for its inferior quality."

The Korean steamers from which much was expected in the way of developing coast trade "spent an unprofitable year."

The arrangement under which the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been managing them for some time past, does not seem to have been attended with success, and the vessels, which have proved veritable white elephants to their owners, have again been thrown on the hands of the Korean Government, which appears to be specially unfortunate in all its enterprises. One of them has been sold to a Korean merchant, and the other two are being run by the Government on their own account, but the predictions that they would supplant the clumsy native craft, and stimulate the inter-port trade, although justified in principle, have been falsified by Korean mismanagement, and the lack of business habits inherent in the native character.

The total import trade for 1896 was yen 6,539,630 as against yen 8,084,465 in 1895 or a decrease of yen 1,544,835, and unfortunately the larger portion of this shrinkage took place in articles of British manufacture." This is accounted for in the following observations which are so interesting that we reproduce them without condensation.

Japanese sheetings showed a substantial increase which is more than counterbalanced by a diminished import of the English and American article, but Japanese piece-goods shared to some extent in the general decline of the import trade of the year. The falling-off was most marked at Chemulpo, where, indeed, all Japanese imports failed to make much headway owing to the energy and enterprise of the Chinese as distributors of Manchester goods, while at Fusan, with practically no Chinese competition, there was an advance in this, as in most other articles of Japanese import.

Japanese yarn has again arrived in larger quantities, and seems to be gradually driving English and Indian yarn out of the Korean market. It can now be sold for about 10 dollars less than the British article, and practically at the same price as the Indian, with which its improved quality enables it to compete on favourable terms.

Reviewing the total import of cotton goods we find that it dropped from 495,968% in 1895 to 361,664% in 1896, a decrease of 134,304% which fell almost entirely on goods of British origin. The Japanese import, 126,000%, was slightly over the figure of the preceding year, and that it should have maintained its position in face of such adverse circumstances is clear proof that these goods, whose total importation four years ago was only 5,000%, in value, have secured a permanent and prominent place in the Korean market. Nor can we console ourselves, as in the two previous years, with



the reflection that the conditions were unfavourable to British trade, for the Chinese who were driven out of the country by the war have been actively employed during the year under review as distributors of British goods, and have enjoyed the benefits of British protection. The Japanese success seems to be largely due to the care and attention which they have paid to the tastes and requirements of the Korean market. In point of quality the Japanese goods are generally inferior to their Manchester rivals, but their cheapness, their varying degrees of texture, length and width, make them more acceptable to the Korean consumer than the more rigid Manchester patterns. As an instance of the imitative success of the Japanese, the Commissioner of Customs at Fusan mentions that the cotton piece-goods made in the province in which this treaty port is situated, have been so closely copied by the weavers in Japan as to deceive even natives respecting their origin. On their arrival in Fusan the Japanese imitations are mixed with pieces of native-made cloth, and this disguise enables them to command a readier sale, and a slightly better price than if they retained their true character. The presence of large and flourishing colonies of Japanese at the three treaty ports of Korea, the diminished cost of freight and packing expenses consequent upon proximity of situation, and the natural desire of a manufacturing country to make its exports pay for its import of food supplies, are all factors which are calculated to foster and promote the trade between the island Empire and this peninsula.

Mr. Jordan believes that opium is secretly brought into the country, that its importation is prohibited, and that among the 5,000 Chinese the average consumption per man is "decidedly larger" than among the same class in China. It is believed that Koreans, and especially those having business relations with the Chinese contract the opium habit. Lately we heard of opium dealers on the Yalu who gave up the business because, as our informant said, there was "opposition." We wish for more of the same kind of opposition. Mr. Jordan evidently does not believe in a statement made in this magazine some time since to the effect that "the drunken man is much more in evidence on the streets of Tokyo and Peking than he is in Söul." As the two opinions were written independently of each other, we give Mr. Jordan's in full.

"I have seen more intoxicated people in Seoul in a week than I have in twenty years in China, and few towns in Great Britain would outrival the capital of Korea in this respect."

The improvements of our streets receive favorable mention.

So far, it has practically been confined to Chemulpo and Söul, but in a very short space of time it has converted a few of the leading thoroughfares of the capital into streets which would not altogether disgrace a second-rate provincial town in Europe, and the importance of the change will be apparent to those who knew Söul a few years ago. Thanks largely to the energetic Governor of the city, who gained his ideas of progress in the United States, several of the principal streets have been cleared of the unsightly obstructions with which they used to be blocked, and the people are gradually being taught the benefits of good roads and clean surroundings.

The prosperity of Chemulpo, the port of Seoul, which thirteen years ago had a collection of fifteen houses—

Is now a large and flourishing center of trade, with broad metalled roads, good substantial buildings, and a foreign population of some 6,000 or 7,000, mostly Japanese and Chinese.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to make a brief reference to the financial position of Korea, which is gradually being placed on a sound basis by Mr. J. McLeavy Brown, the financial adviser of the Government. With careful management and retrenchment of expenditure, a financial equilibrium has been established and maintained during the past year, and there is a surplus in the Treasury sufficient to cover the greater portion of the national indebtedness. The principal items of revenue are the land tax, the customs duties, the house tax, ginseng tax, and gold dues, which altogether make up a budget of about 4,000,000 dol., a sum little more than the revenue of a Malay State like Selangor or Perak. The provincial income and expenditure is, however, left to a certain extent to local management, and there can be little doubt that with stricter supervision, and the establishment of a regular system of accounts, the revenue of the central Government is capable of considerable expansion. Even the collection of the land tax, which is extremely light, seems to have fallen into abeyance for years in about a quarter of the country, but the remittance of this and other charges is now being made with tolerable regularity to the Treasury, and the financial outlook is decidedly hopeful.

The educational movement in the capital where "there are four large schools, in which Korean youths receive the benefit of a foreign education.....all of which are doing excellent work," is favorably noticed.

Our local contemporary *The Independent*, receives due recognition as "doing much to influence native opinion in the direction of progress."



## PYENG-YANG LEGENDS.

THERE are few subjects more interesting than folk-lore and household tales, especially in a country where the supernatural is everywhere present. Korea is particularly full of legends and mythical tales. We heard even this autumn of the appearance of a dragon which was seen by many reliable witnesses. From some sections, reports reach our ears of demon possession and of strange happenings. But aside from these occurrences the country is rife with legends and lore. The unnatural and supernatural prevail tho the people may not be said to be particularly superstitious.

The legend that Seoul is situated on a dragon's back and if the people dig too deep that he all wriggle and make trouble; and that of Pyeng-yang which city is supposed to be a boat tied to two large stone pillars that are miles above the place, a city where wells could not be dug for fear of swamping the vessel, and the thousand and one othr such stories among which it is easy to find legends good, bad and indifferent.

The point of a story which appeals to one may not appeal to all, so the few samples of legends here given were taken somewhat at random from a large collection that poured in on the writer after it was known he was an interested listener. As will be noticed, some are illustrations of the reward of filial piety or reverence, religious observance, kindness and so forth; others seem to be merely yarns with no point at all. There are others, also, for Pyeng-yang being the oldest city has had more opportunity to make legends as well as history, and while most of these are of ancient date, similar ones are being manufactured daily for the delectation of future generations.

*Chap Yak San.*

About five miles from the city of Pyeng-yang is found a peculiar kind of clay, red in color, and of the consistency of dough. During a time of famine some years ago it was found that this clay gave sustenance and strength to whoever ate thereof, and the story goes that multitudes availed themselves of this life-

giving opportunity. To this day, it is said, in times of famine many starving ones resort to the mountain of Chap Yak.

*Kim Chyeng Pok.*

During a great rainy season 2,000 years ago the Tatong river rose to a tremendous height, overflowing its banks and flooding the streets of Pyeng-yang, causing the destruction of hundreds of homes and the loss of a great many lives. Such a flood had never been known before nor since. A young man named Kim Chyeng Pok, living some thirty miles north of Pyeng-yang, was swept away with his wife, inside their house intact, and carried down the river 100 miles. When they arrived opposite the large East Gate of Pyeng-yang a huge fish jumped into the house and landed on the knees of Kim Chyeng Pok who had been praying to heaven for food. The large fish was sent to supply their needs because both husband and wife had such great reverence for their parents. From the East Gate they floated down the river seventy miles further coming to a large island where they were enabled to land and found friendly people who brought them back in their boat to the city where Kim Chyeng Pok lived.

*Tong Myeng Wäng.*

There reigned in Pyeng-yang, the ancient capital of Korea, 1,000 years and more ago, a king by the name of Tong Myeng. He was a very devout and good man; went daily to pray at a cave near the Buddhist temple and at the grave of Ki-ja. One day he found in the cave a large one-horned animal resembling a rhinoceros which heaven had sent, on which the king mounted and went to the river bank, diving beneath the waters and re-appearing a mile further down the stream by the side of a large boulder. Climbing to the top of this rock the king ascended to heaven still riding on the back of the one-horned animal that had been sent to take him thither as a reward for his piety and goopness.

*The Island of Neung Na To.*

About 700 years ago this island was situated near the city of Syeng Chyeng, fifty miles north of Pyeng-yang. During a time of heavy rain it was rooted from its foundations and floated down the Tatong river to opposite the grave of Ki-ja, where it has since remained. When the island was torn from its foundations many people resided thereon; and the rice and other crops were very abundant. When the magistrate of the island dis-



frict found he had lost his territory he came down to Pyeng-yang and demanded taxes which he claimed were legally due him. This claim the governor of Pyeng-yang refused to grant and told the magistrate if the island belonged to his district to take it back from whence it came. Of course this was impossible and the disheartened magistrate was obliged to return to Syeng-cheng without his island or taxes and the island remains in the river to this day.

*Chon An Mountain.*

From this mountain side issued many years ago, a stream of wine, a little of which would make one drunken. Near by there lived a man named Chang Pan Ho who subsisted only on this wonderful fluid, taking no other food. His time was spent alternating between drinking and sleeping. After seventy years Chang Pan Ho died, and from that time the real wine ceased; but in its place a fluid resembling wine bubbled forth without giving any intoxicating effect. This same stream, it is claimed, is flowing at the present day.

*Ko Man Teuk.*

Eleven hundred years ago there lived a man, Ko Man Teuk, who earned a living by making sandals. Returning one day after selling his shoes as he was crossing the river in a fisherman's boat to his home situated on the bank he bought a very large fish over one yard long, for 200 cash. Reaching the shore, on attempting to carry home the fish, he found it so heavy that he was reluctantly obliged to throw it back into the river. Early the next morning Ko Man Teuk went down to the bank for water and there saw a gourd that the big fish had placed there in gratitude for its deliverance. This Ko carried to his home and to his surprise, when he placed a little rice inside found double the quantity was produced. Then he put in some cash and this doubled itself. And finally some silver and this increased likewise, so that very soon Ko Man Teuk became a very rich man. After two months, while he slept one night, the large fish returned for the gourd and carried it away, but Ko Man Teuk was able to live in luxury for the remainder of his life.

E. DOUGLAS FOLLWELL.

## KOREAN PROVERBS.

(Continued from the October Number.)

**M**ANY Korean proverbs are drawn straight from nature, but few of them can claim the beauty and simplicity of the following;

## 58. 솔잎이 벗석학매가랑넙흔홀말업다

"The aspen blamed the pine for rustling too loudly in the wind."

It is truly refreshing to find occasionally among the barren literature of the East such a real poetic gem as this. It loses nothing by being so short, as the violet loses none of its perfume when it closes at night. It brings before the mind a complete picture. An ancient and venerable pine spreads abroad its giant branches, a synonym of dignity and power, while the wind moving gently over it makes a soothing murmur like the sound of distant surf. Near by grows a saucy little aspen the very type of fickleness and shallowness and effervescence, for a breeze that would hardly call a murmur from the pine makes its leaves flutter and turn as if each one was instinct with life and was bound to make as much disturbance as possible over a mere nothing. And the insignificant little aspen looks up and says "See here, old fellow, you are making too much noise up there." But we cannot stop to follow out the metaphor. It corresponds of course to the biblical figure of trying to cast the mote out of a brother's eye when there is a beam in one's own.

## 59. 호위로막을것가리로못막는다

"You can mend with a trowel a little break in a dyke which you could not mend later with a shovel."

The meaning of this is abundantly plain to all those who are acquainted with eastern peoples and their method of cultivating rice. The dike is the farmer's first care. This corresponds to our "A stitch in time saves nine."

## 60. 거석이홍안

"If you lift a heavy stone you must expect to get red in the face"

This emphasizes the fact that nothing great or useful can be done without strong effort and that if one desires to accom-



plish great things he must not be afraid to square himself to the work and get his hands soiled and get red in the face if need be. It must be confessed that this saying stands as a continual rebuke to a large number of the upper or privileged class in Korea.

61. 무호동중리작호라

"In those districts where there are no tigers the wildcats play at being tigers."

This means that where there are no powerful men the small officials strut about and make themselves very important.

62. 거렁이제자루찢다

"The mendicant priests broke each others begging bowls."

Koreans use this way of saying that a house divided against itself cannot stand. The begging priests carry bowls, in which to receive offerings of rice or of other articles.

A saying which, however flat it may seem to our ears, is particularly pleasing to the Korean runs thus:

63. 며느리발뒤꿈치닭의알갓다

"As he disliked his daughter-in-law he said she had a heel like an egg."

This does not imply that there is any great obloquy connected with an egg-shaped heel but it means that the man in question was bound to find fault because he was prejudiced and, being unable to pick any flaw in the woman he was driven to the statement that at any rate she had a heel like an egg which was just ambiguous enough to give vent to his spleen without making him overstep the bounds of truth. This saying is used to characterize those who are chronic grumblers and who if they can find no cause for fault-finding will invent one.

64. 사랑훈개가발뒤꿈치써민다고

"The pet dog bit his master's heel."

It is needless to say that this is a synonym for gratitude, rewarding evil for good.

65. 죽써먹은자리다

There is a great deal of meaning in the simple proverb "If you take a single spoonful of soup from the bowl it leaves no impression."

The amount remaining in the bowl is not apparently diminished. It corresponds closely with our saying "Rome was not built in a day." And it is an exhortation not to let the relative insignificance of a single day's or a single month's work lessen the earnestness of endeavor, for the aggregate result will not be insignificant.

66. **도족지혈이다**

"Like blood in a bird's foot."

This expression is a synonym of scarcity. When a Korean wants to emphasize the lack of anything, especially of money, he makes use of these words which, it must be confessed, form a very sententious simile.

67. **강철이가티는봄도훈가디각을도한가지다**

"Where the meteor falls autumn is as fruitless as spring."

The Koreans believe, with all other eastern peoples, that meteors are signs of evil and that where a meteoric stone falls the earth is blasted and all vegetation is consumed. They apply this metaphor to men who are always unfortunate and who always come to grief whatever be the project that they have on foot. Like the meteor he always brings misfortune and calamity with him. His coming is to be dreaded and shunned.

68. **적반하장**

"The thief instead of being beaten did the beating."

This refers to petty thieving only for robbery is a capital crime in Korea. This saying implies a reverse of the proper order of things and corresponds to our phrase "turned the tables" whose origin is much more obscure than that of the Korean.

69. **국슈문돌줄도모르논녀편비가피안반나무 린다**

"The cook blames the table because he cannot pile the food high."

This saying is as full of meaning to a Korean as it is of obscurity to one unacquainted with Korean customs. In preparing a feast Korean cooks take great pains to pile each dish as heaping full as can possibly be done with safety. It is a mark of generous hospitality on the part of the host. If, then, the cook fails to pile the dainties high he simply proves himself unworthy of his place. If the article of food seem to mock the cook's endeavors he is likely to say that it is because the table is uneven or that one of its legs is shorter than the others: anything to take the blame off his own shoulders. We mean approximately the same thing when we say "The workman finds fault with his tools."

70. **거지잔채**

"Even beggars sometimes feast their friends."

There is nothing to say about this excepting that it conveys the same meaning, but in rather more elegant phraseology, as our "Every dog has his day."



## 71. 고기논적더라도바다똥다운티를본다

"Even the smallest fish makes a commotion in the farthest limits of the ocean."

It would seem from this that even the commonest of Koreans has some idea of the indestructibility of force. We say "How great a matter a little fire kindleth." Or, "Cast a stone in the water and the ripples will break upon the most distant shores."

## 72. 곧알지고성밋혜못가갇다

"He wouldn't walk under the city wall even with a load of rotten eggs"

Now the city wall is a massive structure that centuries seem to have but little effect upon and therefore the probability of its falling on one who walks under it is infinitesimal. Again the value of a load of rotten eggs is even less than the probability of the wall's falling. This proverb therefore is a caricature of an extremely careful man, so careful that he would not even carry a load of rotten eggs along beside the city wall for fear of them being broken. This proverb shows how large a part exaggeration plays in humor.

## 73. 곱비가길면되되갇다

"If you tether your horse with too long a rope he is bound to become entangled in it."

This is a warning as to the ultimate result of too great license. Give a man *carte blanche*, so far as morality goes, and the end can be seen from the beginning. All of which goes to show that the Koreans do not lack in *knowledge* however far they come short in *practice*.

## 74. 안밖괴도비훈다

"He plastered the wall inside and outside."

A man so ignorant that he is like a wall plastered inside and out so that there is no peephole whatever.

## 75. 원님이아전의소매애드러다

"The magistrate has retired into his major domo's sleeve."

Korean sleeves are immense and are used largely as pockets. The saying means that the major domo has such an amount of influence over his master that he has him "completely under his thumb" and is master of the situation. Of course the application of this has become general and is applied not only to magistrates.

## A REVERSED SANTA CLAUS.

A Korean friend, who is a student in one of the several excellent schools established in Seoul for teaching English, and in whose education I have taken some interest, comes to me occasionally in order that I may see the progress he is making in his studies, and one day in reading to me his lesson he came across an allusion to Santa Claus and asked me to explain who this good old fellow was.

I endeavored to do so indulging it may be, in those embellishments with which we westerners are, I fear, too often tempted to adorn our tales when explaining things western to the Asiatics. He was much interested and in turn told me the Koreans also had a Santa Claus: "All the same as yours," said he "except that he is just the opposite and not like yours in any particular."

He told me the story and pointed out the difference, with his Korean embellishments no doubt. It seems that on the last night of each year according to the Korean calendar, an evil spirit comes from the nether world and assuming the visible form of an enormous cat, visits every household and tries to tread into every shoe he can find, and that the owner of any shoe into which this cat manages to get his foot is certain to die or come to grief during the ensuing year.

Therefore on this particular night the Koreans always gather up all their shoes, including even those which have been worn out and cast aside, and taking them into their sleeping rooms lock them up in a box or some other secure place to keep them out of the way of this dreaded cat.

Thus instead of our glorious beneficent and benevolent old Santa Claus, ruddy faced and smiling, clad in furs, with fur cap and fur coat and high-topped felt boots, tipped with fur and strung with silver bells which jingle and chime and make merry music wherever he goes, coming in a golden reindeer-sleigh, ascending the roofs and descending the chimneys, with his broad back bent under the burden of the bountiful load of generous gifts which he bears and brings to gladden with joy the hearts of the children of the household, the Koreans have a malignant cat prowling around to bring evils, trouble, disease, disaster and death. The Korean does not hang up his stocking or shoes in a conspicuous place but hides them, and instead of hoping and wishing that a



Santa Claus will come and put his presents and good things into his stocking, dreads with mortal fear, lest this terrible cat will come and put his pestiferous and evil-bringing foot into his shoe.

Again Santa Claus is particularly and exclusively the property of children. He does not belong to the grown-up; all of us remember how, when children of tender years, we cherished him and loved him and looked and longed for that happiest and most glorious of all nights of the year—Christmas eve—when he would come down the chimney with gifts and presents and blessings; and most of us, no doubt, also recollect how rude and painful was the shock, when in time we learned from whence these good things actually came, and that our beloved saint and benefactor was a myth and a fraud; but the belief in the cat obtains more with the old than the young—this superstition, as do many others, deepening and becoming more fixed and real and terrible with the people as they advance in years and grow old.

But there is one thing, however, connected with this cat, for which even my intelligent and ingenious Korean friend could find no comparison in the Santa Claus legend. The Koreans have learned how to exorcise the cat and have a specific remedy for him—an effectual cat-antidote, so to speak.

If any of the readers of *THE REPOSITORY*, who are so fortunate as to be in Korea on the last night of a Korean year, will go out into the streets during twilight, he will detect among the many vile smells which, as usual, assail his nostrils, a new, peculiar and distinct stink. It is the odor of burning human hair. The Korean carefully saves up during the year, every stray strand of hair from the pates of each member, young and old, of the household, and as all have long and luxuriant locks the hair crop for the year is by no means small; this he burns at twilight on this night in the street in front of his gate or door, it being well known that the spirit cat cannot endure the scent of burning human hair and will give any house in front of which a liberal supply of hair has been burned a wide berth.

And I am assured on good authority, that there is no well authenticated case where this cat has been seen in any house thus protected by these pungent fumes.

## X.

NOTE.—I trust the reader will not infer from the above, that the Koreans have only "bad spirits; on the contrary they have many good ones—gift giving and blessing bestowing—and also many beautiful and interesting legends and stories about them.

## ANCIENT KOREA.

REV. William Elliot Griffis, D.D. made for himself a permanent place in the world of letters when he wrote the *Mikado's Empire*. His second contribution to the sum of human knowledge, *Corea the Hermit Nation*, while not destined to fill the same high place as the one on Japan, has held its own for a number of years as the most popular work descriptive of the peninsular kingdom. And deservedly so; written in a delightful style, enriched by a rhetoric semi-tropical in its luxuriance and containing a vast amount of curious and interesting matter relative to the Korean people, it is just such a work as the English reading public would enjoy. The work is now in its sixth edition. The design of the work was conceived by the author in 1871 when on a visit to Tsuruga the "Saxon Shore" of Korean rovers, and was the result of one of those impulses of sentiment which often come to the scholar as an inspiration to his best. His idea was to give an outline of the history of Korea from before the Christian era to the present year. In those early days (1871—1880) material was scant. Japanese and Chinese histories were at his service, but they put him rather in the position of one writing Dutch history from French and Spanish archives. The result was not so much the history of Korea as a most interesting contribution to the history of Korea, and a testimonial to the industry of the author.

The preface to the first edition is dated Oct. 2nd, 1882. Three years later a second edition appeared in which, however, no addition was made to the text, tho in the preface we have a short account of the *emeute* of 1884. The third edition came out in 1888, in the preface of which the author acknowledges indebtedness to Easign Foulk, Dr. Allen, Mr. Aston, Soh Kwang Pom, Rev. Henry Loomis, Yu Kil Jun and other well-known people. The preface to the present (sixth) edition is dated 1897. In it he recommends the perusal of the Japanese

*Corea The Hermit Nation.*

I. Ancient and Mediaeval History. II. Political and Social Corea. III. Modern and Recent History. By William Elliot Griffis. Sixth edition, 1897. Charles Scribners Sons.



Kojiki and Nihongi to students in Korean affairs—a hint worth bearing in mind. He gives a kind notice of THE REPOSITORY. "For record and interpretation of current history, THE KOREAN REPOSITORY, a monthly magazine in English published in Séoul by The Trilingual Press is of unique value" For this our best thanks.

The orthography of Korean names, as used by Dr. Griffis, stands in much need of revision. In the first place the spelling of Korea as Corea is largely obsolete. The reason why K is preferable to C is as follows: The letters C or K are intended as an English equivalent of the Korean *ㄱ*. This character is pronounced *ki-ok* by the Koreans, but suppose we should use the C, its name would be rendered *ci-oc* which would be confusing to every one. The inutility of C as a rendering of this character was not known when the spelling Corea was adopted, but now that it is known, to hold to the old form is to block the wheels of progress. In the 1897 preface Dr. Griffis gives the name of the capital as Séoul. This we suppose means that it is to be pronounced *Say-ool*, an ancient error we imbibed in America ten years ago. It is bad enough to use the *e* at all, but to put the French accent on it is to put it beyond redemption. The rendition of Korean names is given according to the Japanese pronunciation. This is no doubt elifying to Japanese scholars and furnishes us in Korea with no end of interesting and curious puzzles.

Ancient Korea is full of interest to the student of history. It is as yet virgin soil. How much there was of it, how ancient it was and its character, are still largely unsolved mysteries. There is no lack of material and no end of claims concerning it, but if "even the story of Ki Tsze when critically examined does not satisfy the demands of modern research," then the whole history of Corea as found in the works of Korean historians, previous to the founding of Silla belongs to the same category. The first section of "*Corea the Hermit Nation*," entitled "Ancient and Mediaeval History" deals with the foreign relations of ancient Korea. The treatment at times is somewhat nebulous, for which the author's sources of information must be held accountable. Dr. Griffis begins his work with an interesting and valuable picture. He shows us Korea and Arabia face to face before the dragon throne of China. Extremes meet. The extreme eastern peninsula of Asia meets the extreme western peninsula, which proves that even before the days of steam locomotion and electric communication the world was very small. The authority for this is valuable. We quote it in full.

"It occurs in the Nihon O Dai chi Ran, or, A view of the Imperial Family of Japan". In the first month of the sixth year of Tempio Shoho [Feb

754 A.D.] the Japanese nobles Ohan no Komaro and Kibi no Mabi returned from China, in which country they had left Fujiwara no Seiga. The former reported that at the audience which they had of the emperor Gen-Sho, on New-year's Day (Jan. 18th) the ambassadors of Towan (Thibet) occupied the first place to the west, those from Shinra the first place to the east, and that the second place to the west had been destined for them (Japanese envoys) and the second place to the east for the ambassadors of the kingdom of Dai-Shoko (Persia then part of the empire of the caliphs). Komara offended with this arrangement, asked why the Chinese should give precedence over them to the envoys of Shinra, a state which had long been tributary to Japan. The Chinese officials, impressed alike with the firmness and displeasure exhibited by Komara, assigned to the Japanese envoys a place above those of Persia, and to the envoys of Shinra, a place above those of Thibet."

This peep behind ancient scenes reminds us of a dinner party in modern official life. A quotation from an Arab geography speaks of.—

"The land of Sila which is rich in gold. Mussulmans who visit this country often allow themselves, thro the advantages of the same, to be induced to settle here. They export from thence ginseng, deerhorn, aloes, camphor, nails, saddles porcelain, satin, zimmt, (cinnamon?) and galanga (reging?)."

Dr. Griffis thinks this Arabic "Sila" is a corruption of Shinra. It would seem, however, in view of the proper pronunciation of the word that "Shinra" is a corruption of "Sila."

The Koreans begin their account of ancient times in the peninsula with an interesting tradition of Tangun, whom they make contemporary with Noah, and Tho the founder of the Chinese monarchy. Dr. Griffis gives this worthy a line as "the divine being Dan Kun who had partially civilized the aborigines and begins his history with the old kingdom of Chosen under *Kija*. He says the Japanese pronounce this name "Kishi and the Koreans Kei-tsa or Kysse. To make *Kysse* sound like *Kija* which fairly represents the Korean name of the hero is a problem we have long given up." This sage, like the sound of his name, is a mystery to the author and his own opinion is that instead of being a worthy of Korean history "it is possible Ki Tsze was the founder of Fuyu," a kingdom far to the north of Korea on the banks of the Sungari river. We do not think so. Until the records of *Kija*'s connection with Korea are shown to have been forged we shall have to look upon him as a historic character of Korea, tho his place and influence are still to be settled.

The next great character in Korean history was Ko Chu-mong the first king of the hardy northmen of the peninsula, Kokorio. This kingdom Dr. Griffis designates usually as Korai, thus confusing it with the dynasty which first united the entire peninsula under its sway. In fact our author seems to have a weakness for Korai, for he locates it first north of Sungari as the name of the kingdom designated by the Koreans Fuyu



(Puyu) and then later as the popular name of Ko Chumong's kingdom, known to the Koreans, as Kokorio, and finally as the name of the united dominion over the peninsula in which latter case he is correct. The period of Kokorio, Dr. Griffis treats under the heading of "The Fuyu race and their migrations." He gives us the well-known legend of the freakish way in which Chumong was born. In saying he was named "Light of the East," history

For the Korean account of this see KOREAN REPOSITORY, vol. II pp. 324—26.

is anticipated for this was not his name but his posthumous title, his name being *Chumong*, the Puyuan word for a skillful archer. This hero was "King of the tribe and kingdom of Fuyu which lay in the fertile and well-watered region between the Sangari river and the Shan Alyn or Ever-white Mountains. It extended several hundred miles east and west of a line drawn southward thro Kirin, the larger half lying on the west." There is a slight discrepancy between this and the location given by the Korean historians who locate it about 400 miles further south in the region of Sunchun a city of Pyengando, Korea. We are then told—

"Out of this kingdom of Fuyu came the people who are the ancestors of the modern Koreans \*\*\* Hence their language and laws were very much alike. The nation was divided into five families named after the four points of the compass with a yellow or central tribe. Evidently this means that a few families, perhaps five in number, leaving Fuyu, set out toward the south and in the valleys west of the Yalu River and along the 42nd parallel, founded a new nation. Their first King was Ko, who, perhaps, to gain the prestige of ancient descent, joined his name to that of Korai (written, however, with the characters which make the sound of modern Korai) and thus the realm of Kokarai received its name."

This Ko, whom Dr. Griffis mentions incidentally as a separate and distinct character in history, is none other than his "Light of the East" hero whom he knows only as the founder of Fuyu. The fact of their identity seems to have been unknown to the author of "Corea the Hermit Nation."

Turning from north to south Korea, Dr. Griffis begins properly with the history of the Samhan or the Three Principalities. This interesting chapter, however, is marred by an inaccuracy which it is surprising was not pointed out to the author by some of the correspondents mentioned in his prefaces. We quote, the statement to which exception is taken being in italics.

"After the overthrow of his family and kingdom by the traitor Wei-man, Kijun, the king of old Cho-sen escaped to the sea and fled south towards the archipelago. He had with him a number of his faithful adherents, their wives, and children. He landed among one of the clans of Mahan composed of Chinese refugees, who, not wishing to live under the Han emperors had crossed the Yellow Sea. *On account of their numbering originally one hun-*

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*derd families, they called themselves Hiaksai. Either by conquest or invitation, Kijun soon became their king."*

By Hiaksai is evidently meant the kingdom known in Korean history as Paikjé. Kijun's date at Mahan is B.C. 194, but the name Paikjé is unknown to Korean history until 200 years later. The following is the account of its origin. Onjo the son of the warlike founder of Kokurio, Ko Chomong, fled from his father's court and found refuge with Kijun's successor in the chieftainship of Mahan. This lastscion of the line of Kija, Onjo perfidiously overthrew and made himself master of Mahan taking the dynastic name of Sipjé [ten companions] from the ten companions in arms who had followed his fortunes. But other refugees from the paternal court in the north joining Onjo, the national name was changed to Paikjé [hundred companions.]

The period of the Sam-Han is followed by that of the Sam-Kuk or Three Kingdoms. These are designated by the Koreans as Silla, Kokorio and Paikjé. They are given three chapters in "Korea the Hermit Nation," under the aliases of Hiaksai, Korai and Shinra. Korea's foreign relations during this period are rich in interesting detail. Dr. Griffis gives us most valuable testimony to the influence of Korea on Japan during the period of the Three Kingdoms. He appears to accept the theory of the Korean origin of the Tamato clan, the ancestors of the Mikado, whom he derives from Kokorio. In ancient Japan officials were divided into twelve ranks as in Kokorio, and the central part of Japan, first held by the ancestors of the Mikado, was divided into five provinces as in Kokorio. Further, the two people alike wore flowery costumes, practiced much the same forms of divination and followed the same forms of etiquette. After the fall of their kingdom before the united arms of Silla and Tans, many of the people of Paikjé removed to Japan. Like the industrial and intellectual enrichment of England and America by the Huguenots, the Koreans from Paikjé were a genuine benefit to their warlike island hosts.

"In 710 (A. D.) another body of Hiaksai people, dissatisfied with the poverty of the country and tempted by the offers of the Japanese, formed a colony numbering 1800 persons and emigrated to Japan. They were settled in Musashi, the province in which Tokio, the modern capital, is situated. Various other emigrations of Koreans to Japan of later date are referred to in the annals of the latter country, and it is fair to presume that tens of thousands of emigrants from the peninsula, fled from the Tang invasion and mingled with the islanders, producing the composite race inhabiting the islands ruled by the Mikado. Among the refugees were many priests and nuns, who brought their books and learning to the court at Nora, and thus diffused about them a literary atmosphere. The establishment of schools, the awakening of the Japanese intellect, and the first beginnings



of the literature of Japan, the composition of their oldest historical book, the *Kojiki* and *Nihongi*—all fruits of the latter half of the seventh and early part of the eighth century—are directly traceable to this influx of the scholars of Hiaksai, which being destroyed by China, lived again in Japan. Even the pronunciation of the Chinese characters as taught by the Hiaksai teachers remains to this day. One of them, the nun Homio a learned lady, made her system so popular among the scholars that even an imperial proclamation against it could not banish it. She established her school in Tsushima A. D. 655 and there taught that system of Chinese pronunciation [*co on*] which still holds sway in Japan among the ecclesiastical literati, in opposition to the *Kan-on* of the secular scholars \*\*\*. Hiaksai had given Buddhism to Japan as early as 552 A. D., but opposition had prevented its spread, the temple was set on fire and the images of Buddha thrown into the river. In 684 one Sayeki brought another image of Buddha from Corea, and Umako, son of Inamé, a minister of the Mikado's court, enshrined it in a chapel on his own grounds. He made Yebeu and Simata, two Coreans, his priests, and his daughter a nun.

There seems to be a tendency in some controversialists to dispute the fact that Korea gave Buddhism to Japan. Japanese records are explicit and unanimous on this point and their testimony is not to be lightly overthrown. Under the protection of the Umako mentioned, Buddhism spread in Japan, and Korea became the Mecca of Japanese Buddhism to which the government sent many Japanese to study the faith. The great Shōtoko Taishi, crown prince and chief minister under the empress Suiko, and who was one of the most remarkable characters in Japanese history, had for his tutor a Korean priest. The debt of Japan to ancient Korea industrially, intellectually and religiously, according to Japanese records, has been a vast one but the pupil outdistanced his teacher and even assumed the relation of master. We are told.

"The Japanese laid claim to Corea from the second century until the 27th of February, 1876. On that day the Mikado's minister plenipotentiary signed the treaty recognising Cho-sen as an independent nation. Through all the seventeen centuries which, according to their annals, elapsed since their armies first compelled the vassalage of their neighbor, the Japanese regarded the states of Corea as tributary. Time and again they enforced their claim with bloody invasion and when through a more enlightened policy the rulers voluntarily acknowledged their former enemy as an equal, the decision cost Japan almost immediately afterward seven months of civil war, 20,000 lives and \$50,000,000 in treasure. The mainspring of the 'Satsun rebellion' of 1877 was the official act of friendship by treaty, and the refusal of the Tokio Government to make war on Corea."

The independence of Korea has been an issue of high importance to new Japan for which she has jeopardised her national existence twice in two decades. The link which bound together ancient Korea and ancient Japan has apparently become an heirloom to their posterity, binding them to the same destiny.

## THINGS IN GENERAL

**THE DONKEY COUGH.**—Perhaps my discovery of the Korean name for whooping cough may be of some use to physicians in Korea, who like myself, have been here for a time without coming across it. The disease is very prevalent at Wo san among both Japanese and Koreans, and on hearing two of the latter talking about it I noted that they called it "donkey cough." I then asked a woman who came to the dispensary with a case if it was "donkey cough" and she replied that it was and that she had given donkey hair for it but the child had got no relief. Possibly this is the Korean idea of homeopathy. I use salol with quinine and have in a number of cases cut the disease short. Incidentally I might mention that I find salol useful in bronchitis, the sequel of measles, and in germatic bronchitis —W. B. MCGILL, M.D.

**STANDARDS OF MEASURE.**—In looking over an old history we found a copy of a memorial on the subject of standards of measure presented to His Majesty, Yōng-jong, in A.D. 1750. From this memorial we learn that the following standards were definitely settled in the reign of Sé-jong A.D. 1419—1451, viz;

- (a) The *Yōng-jo Chōk* or carpenter's rule, to be used in measuring all lumber and building materials.
- (b) The *Po-baik Chōk* or yard stick, to be the standard for all cloth stuffs.
- (c) The *Chu Chōk* corresponding possibly to the gallon of the west, and used to gauge the size of earthen and other vessels.
- (d) The *Whang-jong Chōk* or musical scale to be used in determining the values of the various musical notes and in the manufacture of musical instruments.
- (e) The *Yei-gi Chōk* or standard for ceremonies used in connection with the various ceremonial functions, tho in what manner is not clear to the writer.

In the 15th century, however, these standards were not advertized to the people but were deposited for safe keeping at the Department of Public Works, the yard stick only being finally issued to the people. As commerce increased unscrupulous tradespeople shortened it until its aberrations caused serious complica-



tions throughout the country resulting in the memorial of 1750. His Majesty ordered an investigation and it was found that the shortage in yardsticks varied at the trade centers from a half to one inch. A decree was issued to correct this and an inspector of weights and measures is supposed to be attached to every prefecture.

**THE STORY OF THE UNGRATEFUL TIGER.**—Many years ago there lived a tiger, who had the misfortune to fall into a trap. A benevolent man passing by pitied him, and set him free. The tiger, being very hungry, told the man that he proposed to eat him for his dinner. 'Is that the way you reward your benefactors?' said the man. The tiger replied that as man had for ages made war upon his kind, he scarcely regarded mankind in the light of benefactors. He, however, agreed to allow the man to plead his case before an arbitrator, knowing however, that no living thing save man would dare to disagree with him. The man first appealed to the chestnut tree who answered that the tiger was right. The man next appealed to the rock, and received the same decision. Meeting a toad they appealed to him, but he declared that it was impossible to give a decision unless he saw the trap. Together they went to the trap, and, on the toad requesting the tiger to describe how he was caught, the foolish animal entered the trap. No sooner was he inside the door, when the man closed and barred the gate, thus making the tiger a prisoner once more. The man then fled as quickly as possible, and the toad not wishing to see the tiger come to harm, released him. The tiger was furious, because he had been made a laughing-stock, and lost his dinner as well, so he determined to punish the toad by eating him. The toad begged hard to bid his wife and family farewell before he died, and the tiger consented, accompanying him home. As soon as the toad reached a large rock he disappeared in a crevice. The tiger was so furious at being baffled a second time by so contemptible a creature as a toad, that he tried to rub the rock away with his nose in order to get at the toad. He tried again and again, and, getting more and more angry, he rubbed the skin off, and in consequence fell ill and died.—E. B. LANDIS, M.D., *The China Review*.

**SOUTH MOUNTAINS.**—Every nation has its peculiar ideas concerning the selection of sites for building and other purposes. In Korea this has been reduced to a science, and the geomancer, if the professor is at all clever at his art, follows a lucrative calling. Many interesting superstitions are connected with the geographical and other peculiarities of all the principal towns of the empire and there exists in illustration of them an inexhaustible fund of weird

tales. One of the necessary concomitants of a proper site for a palace, or a public building is to have a "South Mountain" in front of it. In Seoul the reason for the location of the palace, the great public buildings and the residences of the aristocracy, in the north part of the city is to have the benefit of the beneficent influences of beautiful Nam San. And throughout the country these South Mountains form one of the beautiful features of the landscape for they generally are crested with a grove of pine and are the popular resort of formal and impromptu picnics and parties. Sometimes, however, the South Mountain is an imaginative rather than an actual quantity. This is the case at the prefectural town of Pupyōng in front of which to the south extends a broad plain unbounded by a mound or hill for a number of miles. Immediately in front of the city is a small knoll, however, rising probably thirty feet above the plain. A lordly grove of ancient pines indicates it as the indispensable South Mountain of the prefecture. The town itself rises in places above the knoll high enough to look down on the Nam San, but that does not matter. The imagination of the Koreans, which is one of the most prominent features of their mental make-up, and of which the South Mountain is peculiarly the creature, supplies in this case of Pupyōng everything necessary.

**MINING BY FIRE.**—One of the interesting features of gold mining as pursued by the Koreans is that known as the "fire process." The shaft is sunk down to the ledge a distance possibly of seventy-five feet in the vertical. The sides of this shaft will be cut into a series of inclined planes which afford the miners a path to the bottom of the shaft. When this has reached the gold bearing ledge, the bottom of the shaft is filled with cord-wood and set on fire. It may burn for several days by which time the rocky sides are thoroughly heated to almost a calcined state, when the miners descend to their work. The heat in the bottom of the shaft is intense and the men who endure it are veritable salamanders. Mr. W. D. Townsend, who has kindly supplied us with these facts, attempted to descend one of these shafts but was compelled to turn back because of the fierce heat. The heated rock is very friable and yields readily to the rude implements of the Koreans. When the time arrives for the descent after one of these fires there is much rivalry among the miners to reach the bottom first in order to secure the richest place at which to work.



**EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.****A LITTLE HELP NEEDED.**

**W**ITH this number we conclude the third volume of **THE REPOSITORY** under the present management and the fourth volume of the series. We take this opportunity to thank our many friends for the cordial support given us the past twelve months. We are under special obligations to our contributors to whom we necessarily look for those sinews of war so necessary to make any periodical successful. To our subscribers, both new and old, we acknowledge the feeling of satisfaction we experienced in the slow but continuous growth of our subscription list. This is a little larger now than it was this time last year.

But it is well to recognize the fact that we are wholly dependent upon the support and co-operation of our friends without whose aid we shall be unable to continue the publication of the magazine. **THE REPOSITORY** was undertaken as a work of love and with a desire to furnish accurate information about Korea, to the world. May we solicit a little friendly help from each one of our subscribers? We are too near the ragged edge of that awful something which a few hundred names on our lists would remove most effectually. We have still several hundred dollars due us from various sources and it is but just to us to say that we need this money to meet our financial obligations of this year. Some of our contemporaries have honored us by calling us the "organ of the missionaries." If by this they simply recognize that as the editors belong to that body they are presumably in a position to speak with some authority on missionary subjects we bow our acknowledgements of the compliment. But if as has been intimated we are subsidized either by the missionaries or by the society to which we belong,

we hasten to disabuse any of such an erroneous impression. Bluntly and frankly this tub stands on its own bottom. We have the pleasure of sending the magazine to bishops, missionary secretaries and others, and we do not deprive them of the pleasure of paying the subscription price in full.

**The Press on the Situation.**—The Eastern press as far as we have seen it is unanimous in its comments upon the strange and alarming character of the activity of Russia in Korean affairs. When the news first reached the *Japan Mail* the editor confessed he did not know what to think so here suggested that "it will be as well for us all to keep our tempers until we are quite sure that there is cause to lose them." That is what some here in Korea have been and are still trying to do. Three weeks later or in the issue of Nov. 27, the editor of *The Mail* still finds it difficult to criticise "Russian policy in Korea because the acts attributed to her are scarcely credible." In which again our contemporary is not alone. He does not complain at "Russia's struggle for a route to southerly seas," tho, "if she places herself wilfully across England's path, every Englishman would be ready to take a part in the effort to thrust her aside."

Russia's general policy in the peninsular kingdom—"now somewhat comically re-christened 'empire'"—seems difficult to reconcile with her attitude towards Japan in the spring of 1895. Then she professed great concern for the independence of this country. "The collective note of the three powers declared that, with Japan posted in the Liaotung Peninsula, the independence of Korea would be illusory." This act constituted by implication at least the three countries the "guardians of Korean independence." "Hence that one of the three should, almost immediately, adopt a course leading apparently to the sacrifice of Korean independence, the other two tacitly acquiescing, is an issue so inconsistent with the rudimentary principles of interstate morality as to be scarcely credible."

*The Mail* thinks Russia distrusts Japan's intentions upon Korea and "shapes her course accordingly." As far as this tends to make Korea a strong and vigorous nation it is but a "proper sequel to the Liaotung convention." But even on this basis it is difficult to find a warrant for the course of the great northern power in Korea. Reference is made to the Lobanoff-Yamagata Convention signed in the spring of 1896. This paper while not satisfactory on all points "means, and can only mean, that the signatories pledge themselves to adopt and maintain a precisely similar attitude towards Korea, neither seeking to supplant the



other, and neither seeking to gain a footing in the peninsula's affairs to the other's exclusion. Since the Convention Russia has supplied to the Korean army a large number of drill instructors, and has also placed one of her own subjects in virtual control of Korea's finances. There can be no question that such acts are violations of the spirit, if not of the precise letter, of the Convention. Indeed, there is no question. The plea advanced on Russia's behalf is that her procedure is exempted from the purview of the Convention by a promise made before the Convention was signed. It is alleged that when Min Yong Whan visited St. Petersburg, he made application to the Russian Government for military instructors and a financial adviser and that the Russian Government promised both. Min Yong Whan was the Korean ambassador on the occasion of the Czar's coronation and Marquis Yamagata was one of the Japanese ambassadors. We are thus invited to believe that when Prince Lobanoff gave to Japan a written promise engaging Russia not to interfere in Korea's military and financial affairs, he actually had in his desk a promise of exactly the opposite import which had been made a few days previously. To accept that explanation would be to convict Russia of very flagrant double-dealing and very clumsy diplomacy.....

"We could appreciate her if she explained that the Lobanoff-Yamagata Convention had no aim except to secure Korean independence, and that to lend experts for the training of Korean soldiers and the regulation of Korean finance cannot be reasonably construed as a menace to Korean independence; but when she admits that such a step would have been interdicted by the Convention, had not a prior engagement existed, she places herself in an exceedingly equivocal position."

Having convicted Russia of unnecessarily aggravating Japan's resentment, if not of "very flagrant double-dealing and very clumsy diplomacy," the editor next considers "Russia's action towards the world," and here again he fails to find "any ingenuous solicitude for Korean independence." Korea does not at this time nor did she at the time the request for a financial adviser was made need the assistance of an expert. "If Russia had sent Mr. Alexieff to Seoul two years ago, and had insisted on his employment by Korea, when the latter's finances stood in urgent need of organization, the measure might have been construed as a genuine means of promoting Korean independence. But a thoroughly competent Englishman had been in charge of Korea's finances for more than a year before Mr. Alexieff's departure from Europe. Hence Russia's determination to have her own nominee employed, invests her whole procedure with a character of self-seeking."

That is the feeling here. No one pretends to offer any reason for the removal of Dr. Brown. It is true ample compensations and other good things were suggested, anything in the world seemingly, except fair dealing or justice.

*The Japan Mail* calls attention to what has been noticed by us, namely, the "manner of Mr. Alexieff's engagement. His services are given to Korea under an agreement signed, not by himself, but by the governments of Russia and Korea. That is a completely new departure. As to its significance we need not say anything. As to its dignity from the point of view of a great power like Russia there can scarcely be any second opinion."

*The Japan Times*, a paper entirely under Japanese management, in its issue of Nov. 19th speaks in a straightforward, fearless manner.

We need not conceal from ourselves the fact that the agreement in question is one of vital and far-reaching importance. In virtue of its provisions Russia will be enabled to control not only the finance, but, through finance, virtually the general administrative policy of the Korean Kingdom. What is worthy of special notice is the last article, which provides that the present agreement shall be unlimited in duration, and what is of more significance, that men of no other nationality beside Russian or Korean shall be appointed to the post of General Adviser to the Treasury. The reservation that the post shall be retored to a Korean official when a competent candidate shall have been found may be dismissed as a mere matter of form, for no one imagines that such a stipulation would have been inserted had there been any possibility of its being carried out. The simple truth is that Russia means to exercise not only exclusive but permanent control over the pockets and hands of the Koreans. It is no exaggeration to remark that the conclusion of the present international instrument marks a turning point in the history of the Peninsular Kingdom. It is a distinct advance toward the completion of Russian ascendancy there \* \* \* \* \*

No amount of sophistry will be able to explain away the glaring inconsistency between the latest move on Russia's part and the spirit of the Lobanoff-Yamagata Convention, which is to secure in Korea a friendly and harmonious co-operation between Japan and Russia. The plea that the arrangement for the engagement of a Russian financial adviser had its origin in a compact entered into between Russia and Korea before the Moscow agreement was negotiated, is scarcely compatible with Russia's honour and self-respect, for it would amount to confessing that, while she solemnly pledged herself to act in harmonious co-operation with Japan in regard to Korea, she had in her mind all the while a scheme diametrically opposed to her professed intentions. When we view Russia's action in the present instance in the light of the policy followed in connection with the recent military mission, the conviction, we regret to say, is irresistibly forced upon our mind, that Russia has little intention to observe honestly the provisions of the existing understanding between her and Japan with regard to Korea.

These quotations, which might be increased had we space, are sufficient to show how the situation is viewed in the East. Here in Korea there is a great deal of quiet indignation visible,



but there is little expression of it. We heard it mentioned that this opposition in one instance, at least, found vent in smashing a tobacco pipe-stem, and that by a high official too.

**Korean Robbers.**—From every direction reports reach us of the prevalence of highwaymen and robbers. These pests exist in especially large numbers about the capital, infesting the roads along which the commerce to and from the provinces passes and preying upon it constantly. The reports this year are not of an unusual character. Every year in fact whether the harvest has been plentiful or short these gentry make their appearance, like tigers driven forth from their lairs by the hardship of winter. They come in gangs ranging in number from thirty to ninety and under the leadership of some clever villain, distinguished more for a fertile ingenuity and skill in securing information of value than in personal prowess. Common report sometimes declares these gangs number three and four hundred, but we are disposed to regard these as of those embroidered tales of oriental fancy in which the Asiatic delights. In operation they are blundering and brutal, their chief skill being manifested in making friends where it will "do good," and in eluding pursuit. One of their favorite plans is to break up into detachments and lurk about prominent roads, pouncing suddenly on small parties of travellers when the coast is clear robbing them of everything and often inflicting serious and fatal injuries if uninterrupted in their work. They take everything, stripping the unfortunate victim of even the clothes on his back. They do not pause at murder and neither age nor sex is any protection from their violence. Recently a boy in his teens was murdered on the Seoul-Chemulpo road from whom it is said a sum of less than fifty cents was secured. Possibly the smallness of the booty enraged the plunderers. Another plan is for them to assemble in a large gang and raid a village. For this purpose they wait until nightfall and when the village has settled down for the night, suddenly a bandit appears striking a gong as a signal to the people not to dare to venture out side their houses. The gang then goes thro the houses in order, taking every thing that suits their fancy. Such scenes are a time of terror, for the bandits do not content themselves with plunder but often give free rein to the evil passions of cruelty and lust. The booty often amounts to several pony loads and before morning the gang will have disappeared into the mountains beyond all pursuit. Such gangs are called by the Koreans *pru-han-dong*, or the "sweatless gangs" in reference to the fact that they without toil themselves reap the fruits of other's toil. By

such gangs as these the country is terrorized. We have already mentioned the presence of highwaymen on the Seoul-Chemulpo road; the road along the river thro Kim-po, Yang-chön and Tong-jin is said to be impassable after sundown; villages are raided and robberies committed in broad daylight on the roads south, while the ravines about Pa-ju are again infested, interrupting traffic to the north. Twenty-five miles out from Soul and the night for the first day's journey from the capital Pa-ju, has been a favorite rendezvous for these "sweatless gangs," and it is here the government often bags them. Six years ago in passing thro this town we saw a gang of them. They had terrorized the prefecture for a time and the authorities proving impotent to suppress them the farmers had risen in their might and finally captured sixty of them. They were not a handsome looking lot of men, but on the contrary resembled nothing more than rats in a pit. One thing that impressed us was that while all were matured in age there was not a large-sized Korean among them,—they appeared to be all undersized. It is seldom that the farmer turns to this trade, for rough, shrewd and unscrupulous as he often is he is still too honest to prey in this fashion on his neighbors. The ranks of the sweatless gangs are recruited from the gamblers and small criminals of the capital and large cities and from the victims of misfortune who have lost home and family and after possibly an attempt to keep the head above the flood of disaster have finally been submerged to the sweatless gang level. From the ranks of the masterless men of the large cities recruits are also drawn, so that there is no lack of reinforcements. Their fate once they fall into the hands of the law is a quick one. Unless sufficient influence is brought to bear to save them, death is the penalty. This influence was not lacking with the *ante bellum* statesmen for the entire gang of sixty "non-sweaters" we saw at Pa-ju, tho caught redhanded in crime, were set free and it may be they are the ones who are now spreading terror in that neighborhood.

**The blow at THE INDEPENDENT.**—As is wellknown to most of our readers in Korea, the editor of *The Independent*, Dr. Philip Jaisohn, is one of the Advisers to the government. His contract was made in the early months of 1897. In the interest of the government and for the good of the people, he began in April of that year to publish the paper which has come to be the most widely quoted paper in the Far East. In a straightforward and fearless manner he advocated reforms and supported every effort to promote good government. The common people, usually



very conservative, were not slow in recognizing a friend of their rights in the new editor. He spoke to them and for them. He did not use the Chinese but the Enmun which everybody but the most learned can understand. He had a hearing. The paper was bought, read and re-read—in fact we heard of an instance in the country where no less than eighty-five persons read a single copy.

*The Japan Times* told us that three things were on the program at the beginning of the fall manoeuvres in this political sea; the capture of the military, the control of the finances and the disposition of advisers. The first was accomplished last spring, the accomplishment of the second we recorded last month and the first movement towards the accomplishment of the third was begun about the middle of the month by declaring the contract between the Korean Government and Dr. Jaisohn off as he had not been recommended for the position by his government. We may say in passing that United States Consular and diplomatic agents are not allowed to "recommend." A few days later when the issue of the 16th inst. was sent to the post-office to be sent into the country, the papers were not received, it being alleged that instructions to that effect were received from the Minister. We understand the papers were sent letter postage.

This attack on *The Independent* is not surprising. It is also rather late in the century to expect a country that is independent, is recognized as a member of the family of nations and about to be admitted into the Postal Union to give up its only real newspaper without a protest.

**"The Translation of the Scriptures."**—Under this caption readers of our 1895 volume will find on page 195 a brief editorial sketch of the history to date of Bible Translation in Korea. On page 361 of the same volume the Rev. S. A. Moffett "reviewed" the Gospels of Matthew and John as newly translated and since then several other books have been issued from the press.

We now wish to carry our history a step further, and on the whole we have a very satisfactory story to tell. Serious and unforeseen difficulties have cropped up from time to time; plans have had to be changed more than once to meet public and other requirements, but the state of work has been so large that we believe we are justified in saying that a few months more will see the whole New Testament in circulation.

Books now already published are:

The Gospels of St. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Acts of the Apostles.

The Epistle to the Galatians.

The Epistle General of St. James.

The Epistles of St. Peter.

In addition to these the "tentative" version of Matthew is now in the press as well as the Epistle to the Romans, I. Corinthians, Colossians, Philippians and I. II. and III. John. Other books are well advanced and will probably be in the hands of the printer at no very distant date.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To The Editor of

"THE KOREAN REPOSITORY."

SIR:—

### WORK FOR THE KOREAN BLIND.

With your permission I should like to ask your readers whether any of them have given attention to the subject of providing books and work for the blind folk of Korea. The subject is one of considerable interest and is not likely to have been overlooked. Indeed, I know that some one has been in correspondence with Mr. Murray of Peking, but with what result I do not know and his name I do not know.

The points I wish specially for information upon are the following:—

1. What work, if any, has been done?
2. Has any attempt been made to print books for blind Koreans, and if so, upon what system—Murray's Pekinese system, Braille or Moon?
3. Is the Korean En-mun in itself quite suitable for the use of the blind, if printed in raised characters?

Information upon these and other pertinent topics would be much valued.

Yours Very Sincerely,

ALEX. KENMURE,

Agent Brit. & For. Bible Society,  
Seoul, Korea.



## LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

*Carpenter's Geographical Reader—Asia.* By Frank G. Carpenter, 12 mo., pp. 304. American Book Company. New York.

This is a delightful book written in a free and simple style, and full of those things one wants to know of a country he never saw but would like to see. The book covers the whole of Asia.

We turned first to Korea to which, however, only seventeen pages are given. The description of the country tho brief is accurate. We wish we could say the same of his pronunciation of the word for the capital; it surely is not *sa-oof*. The people and their curious customs are vividly portrayed; Seoul is located and described. The picture "A view of the city" would not be recognized since the improvement of our streets, but it is a faithful representation of things as they were. The other pictures, from the solemn mourner to the sturdy plowman, are easily recognized. We recommend the book.

*Christian Missions and Social Progress.*—A Sociological Study of Foreign Missions. Vol. I. By Rev. J. S. DENNIS, D. D., author of *Foreign Missions after a Century*, with 60 full-page reproductions of original photographs. Two Vols. large 8 vo, cloth. Price \$2.50 (gold) per vol. FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY, Chicago.

This is a new and notable book on foreign missions. Their influence is studied from the view-point of the sociologist, and results of fresh interest are brought forward. The evangelistic aim is duly honored as paramount; but special attention is devoted to the social significance of mission work as introducing stimulating and corrective ideals, giving promise of beneficent and far-reaching changes in the status of non-Christian peoples. The author has taken great pains to inform himself as to the social conditions of heathenism; and the thorough character of his investigations is apparent in the elaborate and admirably arranged chapter on the "Social Evils of the non-Christian World." The environment of Oriental civilizations, as well as the manners and customs of savage races, are studied. A searching review of the influence of the great ethnic religions of the world upon the highest life of society is given. An impressive exhibition of the adaptation of Christianity to purify the moral life of mankind and introduce regenerating forces into social evolution is presented. The service rendered by missions in the spheres of education, literature, philanthropy, social reform, and national development, are commented upon with insight and breadth of view. Their ministry as a stimulus to culture and a teacher of new and transforming social aspirations is dwelt upon with deep enthusiasm. The literary style is attractive and the illustrations beautiful.

A fuller review will appear in a future issue.

*Korea and her Neighbors.*—By Isabelle Brd Bishop, F. R. G. S. Illustrated. 8vo, \$2.00 gold. The Fleming H. Revell Company: Chicago.

Mrs. Bishop's views are those of an acutely observant traveller and her several visits and somewhat extended sojourn and travels in Korea enabled her to write a book which we are sure will be heartily welcomed by our readers. We shall be happy to receive orders for this work and forward them to the publishers.

*Handbook and Directory of the Anglican Church in the Far East.* Printed and published at THE ENGLISH CHURCH MISSION PRESS, Seoul, 1897.

We are glad to see that this Handbook and Directory is likely to become an annual visitor. Its usefulness is undoubted. It contains full accounts of the work of the Episcopal Churches in China, Japan, Korea, Siam, Borneo, Hawaii and the Strait's Settlement; each section being prefaced by an account of the country dealt with, its government, language, religions, relations with foreign powers and of missionary work unconnected with the Anglican Church. To the present issue some very useful maps have been added. There is also an account of the Bishops Conference held at St. John's College, Shanghai, in April last, together with a reprint of the letter addresses by the assembled bishops to the "Clergy and Laity of the Anglican Community in China and Korea" and of the resolutions adopted by the conference. This is, of course, very interesting reading but why do bishops go in so much for platitudes?

### ON DIT:

That the long sleeve is seen again.

That Santa Claus was unusually popular.

That Thanksgiving day was not observed in any public way by the Americans.

That the question has been asked "why."

That secret conventions grind both slow and fine.

That Chong-dong had a house repairing epidemic this fall.

That there appears to be a general resurrection of the dead past.

That Jack Frost got a good grip on the weather on the 15 and 16th.

That the study of the French language is becoming popular in the capital.

That the rifles have been taken from the boys in the Imperial English school.

That our contemporaries treat the Empire of Daihan in anything but a serious manner.

That the melodious song of the coolie pounding foundations is no longer heard in Chong-dong.

That former obligations and agreements seemingly lie loosely upon certain consciences in these painful days of Daihan.

That the honors civil and military especially the latter seem to fall almost exclusively among the worthies of the Ham-kyeng province.

That this may be a late recognition of the sterling worth of the denizens in the native province of the founder of the dynasty.

That the *literati* of Choong-chung are not in it.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New-Year.

A good time to renew is now. We have room for a few new names on our lists also.



We have a review of the fruit crop in Seoul in 1897 by Gen. Dye, which will appear in our next number.

Friday December 10th was the coldest day we have had up to that time, the mercury registering 10° Fahr. at Chemulpo.

A de Speyer, Esq. H. I. R. M. Chargé at Seoul has been transferred by his government to the port at Peking as Envoy Extraordinary.

We regret to learn that the Rev. W. M. Junkin of the Southern Presbyterian Mission at Kunsan was sick with dysentery nearly the whole fall.

The boats which bring rice up from the provinces are known as Seven Bucket Boats because the bags of paddy contain seven large measures of rice each.

The Rev. C. T. Collyer and family are living in Songdo. They are in a thatch house and will have to rely on the native method, the kang, for heating during the winter.

Our contemporary *The Independent*, whose sources of information are always exact, reports that 70,000 candles were burned at the imperial funeral. They cost \$6,800 or about nine cents each.

A party of Britons from Shanghai visited the northern province on a hunt and report having had a good time. They tried to make us believe they got five tigers, but—we are something on tiger stories ourselves.

The Japanese have secured permission to extend their sea frontage out 175 feet thus redeeming a wide strip of mud-flat. It is possible that the Bund of the General Foreign Settlement may be extended to match this improvement.

Mr. H. G. Bennett the enterprising Manager of Holme Ringer and Co. at Chemulpo has secured the agency for the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., so that it is possible to purchase at Chemulpo now a ticket thro to almost any point of interest in the world.

Messrs. Noble and Wells report having made ninety *li* on their wheel in Pyeng-an in 2 hours and 55 minutes. We made seventy-five *li* in a sampan recently ourselves in that time and are about ready to race their bicycles with our sampan any time the gentlemen convince us they know how to swim.

A selection of the gifts presented to the Queen are now on view at the Imperial Institute, London, and among them are those of the King of Korea, who, together with embroidered scrolls, &c. sends "a copy of the speech which H. E. the Ambassador would have made had he been able to speak English."

The first Annual Meeting of the Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was held in Seoul at the house of the Superintendent, the Rev. C. F. Reid, D.D., Dec. 8. The membership is 48, probationers 108, total 156. The collections \$191.12, of which considerably more than one half was given by the natives.

Mr. Kaing Whasuk the Puyun of Inchön and superintendent of trade at Chemulpo is a Christian and the leading member of the Roman Catholic church at the port. Mr. Kang is one of the first Christians to be placed by the government in the responsible post of a provincial prefect and is making a good record for himself.

The rice crop in the Metropolitan province has been a failure, not being more than a third of what it is in average years. As a consequence much local distress is felt the price having risen about forty per cent.

The distress is only local for the great grain raising provinces report large crops and it will only be necessary to bring in the rice from them to secure relief.

The storms of November did much damage to Korean native shipping. Many junks along the coast were wrecked and some were blown across the Yellow Sea and cast on the shore of the Celestial Empire. Shanghai papers report the arrival of two companies of shipwrecked Koreans at that port the last week in November, one batch of seventeen men from the Ningpo coast and one of twenty-three men from Tsungming.

Great interest is being developed in the Pyeng-an province by the exploitation of gold mines by American and German capital and an unusual number of foreigners have visited the province during the year. Among these was Hon. J. Sloat Fassett one of the leaders of the Republican party of New York and who won distinction when as the representative of the young Republicans of the empire state he secured a term as Speaker of the State Legislature.

Some ten years or more ago when some of us first came to Seoul we were told that most of the water-carriers in the city came from the province of Ham-kyeng. We often felt sorry for them. Their fortune has turned, their day has come. They still continue to come, so we are told, but not to "fetch a pail of water." They know the language of their neighbor across the Tumen and that is of great service in them to securing a position in the army or government.

The Japanese Consul moved into the new, beautiful and commodious building erected by his Government in Sang-dong. It is not as imposing as the French Legation building in Chong-dong which is three stories high, but it ranks as one of the best buildings in the capital. The grounds of the consulate are extensive and we doubt not next year will witness that touch of landscape gardening for which the Japanese are well known, and that they will be among the prettiest in our city.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Hodge for a copy of the Korean calendar for 1898 just issued from the press of the English Church Mission, Seoul. It is a splendid piece of work, reflecting the greatest credit upon all concerned in its preparation. Printed on a fine thick paper, in red and black ink, it contains besides the monthly calendar, a number of prayers, &c. and a considerable amount of useful information regarding festivals, &c. of the church. Altogether it is a great advance on anything that has been issued from any press in Korea.

The Seoul-Chemulpo railway is being pushed forward with all possible vigor. It is rumored that as soon as the track is laid trains will be run from



the port to the Han river—three miles from Seoul. This too before next summer! Think of it!

"Singing thro the forest,  
Rattling over ridges;  
Shooting under arches,  
Rumbling over bridges;  
Whizzing thro the mountains,  
Buzzing o'er the vale—  
Bless me! this is [will be] pleasant,  
Riding on a rail!"

*The Christian News* has four pages extra for its Christmas number full of interesting and helpful reading of the advent of the Saviour. "The Angel Announcing the Birth of Christ" reproduced specially for *The Christian News* is presented to each subscriber. The work was done in New York by friends of the editor and is a fine piece of workmanship. We congratulate Dr. Underwood on his enterprise and success. We also rejoice that the subscription list to his excellent weekly is increasing and we wish for it many years of great usefulness.

*The Korean Christian Advocate* likewise gives four extra pages devoted to the service connected with the dedication of The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Seoul. The dedicatory services were held on Sunday the 26th inst. and were of an impressive character.

The editor of the *Kobe Chronicle* is nothing if not humorous. Some weeks ago he copied several news paragraphs from *The Independent* and gave it the title "Hard Worked Missionaries." The comments were as appropriate as the wit was clear. The production afforded some amusement to us here and no doubt helped to fill up the paper at Kobe. In the weekly edition of Dec. 11 on page 481 in the third column and at the end is a paragraph with the heading "Drowsy," it reads, "It would be interesting to know at what date the KOREAN REPOSITORY goes to press. The last number, received yesterday, and dated 'November,' in an editorial note on M. Alexieff's engagement as Financial adviser says—'Japanese editors have not heard the news if absence of comment, in papers received up to date, is indicative of lack of information.' Just so. We stated a fact; but where is the joke?"

*Versatile.* Some months ago we noted the bicycle record of Mr. Reynolds from Chemulpo to Seoul. Reading this the versatile editor of *The Nagasaki Shipping List*, which has since grown into *The Nagasaki Press*, fell into moralizing in this sage way:

"Tho the gospel appears to be making slow headway in Korea, [where did he learn that?] we are pleased to note that it is otherwise with that other seemingly potent factor of latter-day Christianity, the 'bike;' and 'records' are seemingly [he will probably hide behind this word when hard pushed for facts] far more plentiful than converts ever were in the Land of the Morning Calm. Enthusiasts in the matter will learn with joy that the Rev. W. D. Reynolds has ridden on his wheel from Chemulpo to Seoul in two hours and fifty-six minutes. Any one who knows the road will understand very well that the Rev. W. D. Reynolds did not do any shill-shallying by the wayside, scattering the seeds of faith or otherwise, on that trip."

We have some anxiety about the admission of the above note, lest there be some more far-fetched moralizing.

Herr Carl Wolter was elected by the landholders of Chemulpo to represent them on the municipality of the port.

The Municipal Council of Chemulpo has been organized by the election of the following officers:

President, Hon. H. N. Allen, U. S. Minister Resident and Consul General.

Vice President, H. B. Joly, Esq. H. B. M. Vice Consul at Chemulpo.

Secretary, W. D. Townsend, Esq.

Treasurer Carl Wolter, Esq.

Executive Committee, K. Ishii, H. I. J. M. Consul at Chemulpo, W. D. Townsend and Carl Wolter.

The Chemulpo Municipality closes the year with a credit balance in the bank of \$27,000, and the Settlement in a fine condition. During next year the work of improvement will be continued. We doubt if any Settlement in the Far East can show a finer condition of affairs than prevails in Korea's greatest port.

The Seoul Union is an organization for recreation and for the social and literary improvement of its members. It owns in the center of Chong dong adjoining the new Palace a brick building and grounds sufficiently large for three tennis courts. In the spring and fall tennis is played regularly and the last season thus far has always seemed the most popular. During the winter under the excellent management of the lady members, readings, musicals, lectures and entertainments for young and old have been provided. Last year Mrs. Bishop lectured several times in the Union rooms.

The membership is composed of the diplomatic corps, government and customs officials and private residents of the capital. Among the presidents of the past were the United States Minister, one Foreign adviser to the Korean Government, one representative of Russia and a chief commissioner of Customs, J. Mc Donny Brown, L. L. D., the present incumbent.

Santa Claus as in years past visited the little folks on the evening of the 24 inst and made glad their hearts thro his well known liberality.

This winter in addition to entertainments of a diversified character the membership will have a number of Shakespeare readings.

Mr. R. Willis of the English Consulate this city in his report of his visit to Pyeng-yang and Chinampo as recently published has the following observation on the mining concession made to an American syndicate: "Placer mining is carried on very largely in the northern portion of Pyeng-yang province in the tributary streams of the Tatong and Yalu rivers, and in 1895 the Korean Government granted a concession to work gold in the district of Wonsan—not to be confounded with the treaty port—a tract of about twenty five miles square situated one hundred miles north of Pyeng-yang, to an American syndicate. There are about a dozen foreign engineers resident at present; a mill has been set up and at the time of my visit to Pyeng-yang the manager was awaiting with some anxiety the result of the first crushings. The wages paid to Korean miners are forty cents a day. The manager of the mine professes himself perfectly satisfied with the quantity and quality of their work; tho a man of considerable experience in mining, he informed me that Koreans compared favorably with any other miners he had dealings with; if properly supervised they did good and intelligent work, cost little and were easily managed."

In speaking of the Christian work in the city and province he reports about 2000 converts. "The Koreans of these northern provinces are, in the opinion of these missionaries who have lived among them, far more satisfactory than their southern compatriots. They are more honest and reliable, as well as more enterprising, diligent, and industrious, a view that is borne out by the foreign merchants who have had dealings with them."



